

JEHU AND ELISHA

Warrior and Prophet Share in the Fulfillment of the Divine Plan

STORY BY THE "HIGHWAY AND BYWAY" PREACHER

Scriptural Authority: 2 Kings, Chap. 9.

DODD, MEAD & COMPANY, NEW YORK

SEKMONETTE.

Elisha, in the anointing of Jehu, carried out the commission which had been given to Elijah over 20 years before. Thus are we reminded that God's plans extend beyond the lifespan of any one man, and we also find illustration of the words of Jesus: "I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labor; other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors." Paul was conscious of how the Divine transmuted the human when he wrote to the believers at Corinth: "I have planted, Apollo watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase."

God reveals his plans only to those of his servants who in faith and patience can wait God's time of fulfillment.

The wicked house of Ahab, and that wickedest of wicked women, Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, must have been a great trial to the prophet Elisha. It must have taken a vast amount of the grace of God and of faith to have waited through those long years for the coming of the righteous judgment of God upon such wickedness. How often perhaps during those years the impatient impulse must have seized Elisha to go to Jehu and tell him of God's plan for him, so that it would hasten his efforts to seize the kingdom. But as often would come the consciousness that man must wait the fullness of God's time, and that to attempt to force the hand of God, as one might say, would be to invite not only failure, but shame and dishonor. No, the prophet must patiently hide God's time. He must wait through the years and slowly but surely see the wickedness of the house of Ahab come to its full fruition. Persecution, famine and the pestilence of war must be endured. With the Psalmist, Elisha could say: "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." But at last—there is always an at last with the Lord—the time comes when God speaks and the prophet acts. Then is that fulfilled concerning which God had spoken so many many years before, and the warrior Jehu who so unconsciously had been growing and developing through the years to fit into God's plans, suddenly flashes forth as the avenging hand of God's judgment upon the wicked.

SODD, MEAD & COMPANY, NEW YORK

THE STORY

In judgment Elisha returned from Ramoth-Gilead disappointed and perplexed. He had gone there under his confident expectation of anointing King Ahab, but to see that he had come from field sweeping such a curse. He had waited impatiently for several days looking for divine light.

FOR EGGLAYING COMPETITION

English Poultry Fanciers Plan a Contest of Some Interest.

The street commissioners and district collecting depot have in contemplation the holding of a laying competition upon a more extended scale than has yet been attempted in this country. An advertisement has been received of the following recommendation for the purpose it is proposed that provision shall be made for the reception of at least 200 pens of six pullets each, and the competition shall commence next October and extend over a period of six months. The proposal has been submitted to the Utility Poultry club for approval and adoption, with the offer on behalf of the executive of the depot to manage and be responsible for the arrangements. In the conditions which it imposed should give up the competition various new features have been introduced. The birds are to be assembled four weeks before the competition opens so that they may become accustomed to their new quarters, and at the close the whole

and leading but no divine message came, and at last he had returned home as we have said, disappointed and deeply perplexed.

Years before when Elijah was about to be taken from him into heaven he had laid the solemn charge upon him to anoint Jehu king over Israel, telling him how the Lord had spoken to him in the mountain and had told him that Jehu was to become king in the room of Ahab.

At that time Jehu was a mere youth promising to be sure, but only beginning his career in the army—and Elijah had understood that the time had not arrived to anoint Jehu. When King Ahab had been killed in the battle with the king of Syria, the prophet Elijah had not been surprised or disappointed when Ahab's son Ahaziah had come to the throne, notwithstanding the fact that the young warrior Jehu had returned from the battle with a glorious record for valor and had proved himself a leader of great ability. Elijah had felt that the time had not yet come when the word of the Lord was to be fulfilled by the anointing of Jehu.

But when the wicked, impudent reign of two years had ended in the ignominious death of Ahaziah as the result of his fall during a drunken revel, and became another son of Ahab had come to the throne without any apparent opposition Elijah had indeed been disappointed.

It was then that he had spoken to Elisha of the commission God had laid upon him to anoint John King over Israel and only a few short weeks after that he had been snatched from earth to heaven. And ever since that hour Elisha had been watching intently the course of events in Israel in expectation of the solemn responsibility which Elijah had placed upon him of fulfilling the commission to anoint King over Israel. But as he had waited through the years there had come no word or sign from God and his spirit was sore vexed by the delay. Then had come the war with Syria and the well-nigh mortal wounding of King Jerah. Then Elisha had said:

"Now is the time come when Jehu shall be anointed king over Israel and the judgment of God will fall upon the wicked house of Ahab."

In obedience to this conviction Elisha had hastened to Ramoth-Gilead and was there when Jehu and the other captains of Israel's army returned. Day after day he had waited impatiently expecting the death of King Jerah and the arrival of the assassin's moment when God's word would come to him to anoint Jehu. But Jerah, to the surprise of every one, grew stronger and was finally able to rise to his feet to recite his full health and vigor and at last, as we have said, Elisha had left Ramoth-Gilead no home disappointed and perplexed.

Then what a struggle ensued in the heart of the prophet—impatience and doubt strove for the mastery and because the prophet watched events at Jezreel and at Ramoth-Gilead. The reports from the former place were that Jerah was fast recovering from his wounds and the fact that Ahaziah, king of Judah, went down to Jezreel to visit Jerah indicated a continuation of the alliance between the two kings which would strengthen the hands of both.

King Jerah at Jezreel also received reports from Ramoth-Gilead which were favorable. His captains to all outward appearances remaining loyal to him. In fact they had sent repeated messages to the king wishing him a full recovery and a speedy return to Ramoth-Gilead. True there was some alarm in the breast of each captain of the king's hosts the fires of disloyalty but each was fearful to show his hand and be the first to take the step of revolt. And while each professed loyalty to the king and sent messages to the king at Jezreel, each was watching for the opportunity which would give him the balance of power.

Then matters stood when Elisha had

decided to be put up at auction, one half of the money realized above \$1 per pen to be retained to defray the expenses of management. The notice is to be at 1/2 per pen and the owner may mate their birds and purchase the eggs at \$1.00 per dozen. London Chronicle.

Cheap Living

Most people do not need the evidence of recently published statistics to prove to them that it costs more to live in London than it does, did it not cost it any Londoner, not living way out side to do on £1 a week, as the average fresh painter did. He allowed £1.00 for clothes and linen. He said a man might live in a garret a shilling a week. Few people would inquire where he lived and if they did it was easy to say: Sir, I am to be found at such a place. By spending threepence at a coffee house he might be, for some hours a day, in very good company. He might dine for sixpence breakfast or bread and milk for a penny and do "without supper." Of course expenses can always be reduced to a

visited Ramoth-Gilead with the burden of desire to fulfill his commission, but as he had waited there had come no word from God and at last he had departed from Ramoth-Gilead.

And what of John during these days? While no hint had ever come to him of the Divine word which had been spoken concerning him there had grown up within him an irresistible ambition to rule over the nation.

"But," said he to himself, for he dared not trust his confidences to any man, "if this thing is to be it must be because God is in it; and I must wait for him to open up the way. I know the wickedness of the house of Ahab and I know the judgments which God has spoken against them by the mouth of his prophet."

The presence of the prophet in Ramoth-Gilead had filled him full of expectancy, but when news was brought him that Elisha had finally left and gone to his own city his hopes were dashed to the ground and he summoned the other captains that they might plan for the return of the king, for," said he, "the king is making good recovery and Ahaziah, king of Judah, hath gone to visit him at Jezreel."

We are with thee in this thing," they all exclaimed with one accord, when they had come together. But sevens had they begun their meeting when there burst abruptly into their midst a young man of most unusual appearance, his manner and dress betokening that he belonged to the sons of the prophets. Every eye was fixed upon him as he explained:

"I have an errand to thee, O captain."

John felt the hot blood rush to his head as he suddenly realized that his call had come, but he managed to blurt out:

"Unto which of us all, seeing we be all captains of the king's hosts?"

To thee, O captain."

And he went with him and when he returned the consciousness that the anointing oil from God was upon him made him bold to execute all that it was God's purpose should be brought to pass.

Saloon Town Reformed.

"We've got a town on off road the boys call 'Hell.' If you want a real hard thing to try out the Y. M. C. A. on, put it there." This was the remark made ten years ago by a railroad president to an International Y. M. C. A. secretary, who had urged that this organization could better the conditions of living and the service on the road. "That suits us," said the secretary. The company put up \$4,000 for an equipment, and the citizens \$2,500. At the end of a month saloon men protested that the new organization was ruining their business. One of them who had the biggest paying corner saloon in town said his monthly receipts had fallen off from over \$1,000 to \$700, and he or the association had to quit. Now a handsome Episcopal church occupies his corner. A bookseller who came back to the town after an absence of two years, hunted for his former associates in their accustomed seats in the saloon and found them in the Y. M. C. A. building.

Anniversary of Porcelain.

The two hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the secret for making hard or sauline porcelain—the Dresden and Meissen—all the world admires will be celebrated in Dresden in January next by a grand exhibition showing the historic development of porcelain making in Saxony, as well as France, England, Prussia and Denmark.

Hearty Meat Eaters.

An Eskimo will devour greedily 20 pounds of meat a day. A Russian Tatar will eat in 24 hours 40 pounds. Capt. Cochrane mentions a Tartar who consumed in that time the hind quarters of a large ox, 20 pounds of fat and a proportionate quantity of melted butter to drink. Three of his tribe—the Yakut—think nothing of polishing off a reindeer at a meal.

nothing is done without things.

The question is, which of our various expenses is unessential? Bowditch's trishman hinted at one: On clean-shaven days he went abroad and paid visits, says his ingenious chronicler London Chronicle.

Chemicals in the Street.

Recently in New York carbons of acid oil from a dray and were smashed on the pavement. The released liquids mingled and the chemical result of their union was a flame which flooded the street. The throngs of shoppers fled in terror. Water was powerless against the blaze, but luckily sand was at hand, and with this the firemen mastered the situation.—Illustrated Sunday Magazine.

Bible Money Terms.

The money mentioned in the Bible would possess the following equivalents today: A shekel of silver, 32 cents; a shekel of gold, \$10; a talent of silver, \$2,000; a talent of gold, \$80,000; a piece of silver or penny, 17 cents; a gerah, 3 cents; a farthing, 1 cent; a mite less than a farthing.



By Opie Read

He said he was a comin' out to go a fishin' with me.

"Well, I let him off, and after we had got to be right good friends, I asked him how he happened to be engaged against my enemy, and this is what he said: 'Oh, I wasn't. Some of the boys told me you were comin' into the house and I knew that you were troublesome when you set your head to it, so as court wasn't in session I started in to makin' a speech against the fellow so you could hear me, and he clapped me on the shoulder and you could have heard him laugh more than two miles this time.'

"Get a lawyer with fun in him and he's all right. Once I had some business on hand—the settlement of my brother's estate—and I went to old Tom Cantwell and asked him how much he would charge me and he almost took my breath with the amount he named. I knew he was a man of a most deal of ability—lined fun, and I said to him like this: 'Tell you what arrangement to make, colonel. Eve for a mighty fine chicken out at my house and if you can fetch out one to whip him I'll engage you and pay your papa, but if my chicken whips yours, why you do the work for nothin'. He was a man of ability and he agreed. Ah me, there ain't such lawyers about here these days. I recollect once he—'

"But did the fight come off?" someone inquired.

"Oh, that fight? Yes, held tallow candles for it one night, and you'd have thought it was a knowin' the air was so full of feathers. My wife kept on a callin' out: 'Samuel, what are you a doin' there in the smokehouse,' and I always answered: 'I'm diggin' up a rat. Go on to bed. Eve must got him now.'

"I don't know how long they fit—other roosters were crowin' all around the neighborhood when they got through. But my chicken crowed last, and the colonel gave me his hand with feathers a stickin' to it, and says, says he: 'Lim, you've got me and I'll take care of your business.'

Best settlement I ever made. He took care of the business right up to the handle, and when he had got through he bowed, he did, that he could find a bird that could whip mine for the estate—said he'd put up his law books and his house and lot against it, but it looked too much like gambling, so I backed down. Oh, he would have done it. Ablos lawyer in the county, it's a pity all lawsuits couldn't be settled somewhat in that way—as fairly, I mean.

I was just a thinkin' he added after a few moments of silence, "how much trouble the old world has been put to tryin' to govern man. Every year or so the legislatures meet and make laws and unmake them, always experimental with man. The trouble with him is he don't know what he wants and don't know what to do with it after he gets it. And the lawyer is the outgrowth of his restlessness and his ignorance."

"Think there will ever come a time when there are no lawyers?" the young advocate inquired, and the old man scratched his head.

"Oh, yes, that time will come, but it will be the time when there isn't anything. The lawyer has come to stay as long as the rest of us do. He's a smart man and a good feller for the most part, and is nearly always willin' to forgive you when he has done you a wrong, and I want to remark right here that this argues the extremest of liberality."

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Copper Mines Most Valuable.

"Mining is an uncertain business even at best," said George A. Walker at the Republican. "The most you can say of it is that you are investing your money in a hole in the ground or on the prospects of some one else's ideas being correct. Even when you invest in an established mine which seems to be paying large dividends, you are running the chance of the vein's coming to an end and your stock going down to almost nothing. Of course, this is rather an unusual occurrence and science nowadays can pretty accurately tell what is to be expected from any mine after it has been worked a short time. The most profitable mines, however, are not as might be surmised, the gold mines. The one mine in the United States which pays the largest dividends to-day is a copper mine. Copper is easier and cheaper to mine than gold, there is generally a much greater output, and less loss from waste or carelessness."

—Milwaukee Sentinel

On Terra Firma.

"What does become of all the pins?" cried Mrs. X, as she vainly sought for one on her dressing table.

"I know, mamma!" cried her little son, who had just begun to study Latin. "They fall to the earth and become termites." —Harper Weekly.